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MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
WOLVERINE
AND
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK
TOO MANY WOLVERINES...
PLUS 3 MORE ALL-NEW FEATURES
BRAD VANCATA · 90

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS

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Page

WOLVERINE 1

On The Road
Part 6 of 8

"NO WHERE TO RUN, NO WHERE TO HIDE"

The lives of innocents hang in the balance! It's all-out action as the *Hulk* battles *Wolverine*—or does he?

Writer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Penciler — DAVE ROSS
Inker — DAN DAY
Letterer — TODD KLEIN
Colorist — BRAD VANCATA

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WEREWOLF 9

Children of the Beast
Part 6 of 6

"REBORN TO BE WILD"

Reborn as a new *Being of Power* through fusion of his human and werewolf selves into one identity, Jack Russell finds himself caught in the middle of the final conflict between the pack of werewolves called *The Braineaters* and the fanatical followers of the madman known as *Silver Dagger.*

Writer — LEN KAMINSKI
Penciler — JAMES FRY
Inker — BRAD K. JOYCE
Letterer — BRAD K. JOYCE
Colorist — GREGORY WRIGHT

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SUB-MARINER 17

Neptune's Eye
Part 3 of 3

"SENDING THEM HOME"

An ancient and mysterious being in the center of Neptune's Eye has given Namor the key to repelling the attacking sea creatures. Now he and Sandra race back to the humans' undersea base in the hope of saving them from imminent destruction

Writer — ROBERT DENATALE
Penciler — MIKE COLLINS
Inker — MARK FARMER
Letterer — PHIL FELIX
Colorist — KELLY P. CORVESE

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PUNISHER 25

"THE REAL THING"

The Punisher—an obsessed killing machine—the personification of revenge. The soul of *Frank Castle* died when he and his family stumbled onto a mob rub-out and fell under a shower of lead. Castle's body alone survived, possessed by a desire to visit retribution on all those who flaunt the law and threaten the innocent.

Writer — MARCUS McLAUREN
Penciler — DAN REED
Inker — DAN REED
Letterer — RICK PARKER
Colorist — MARCUS McLAUREN

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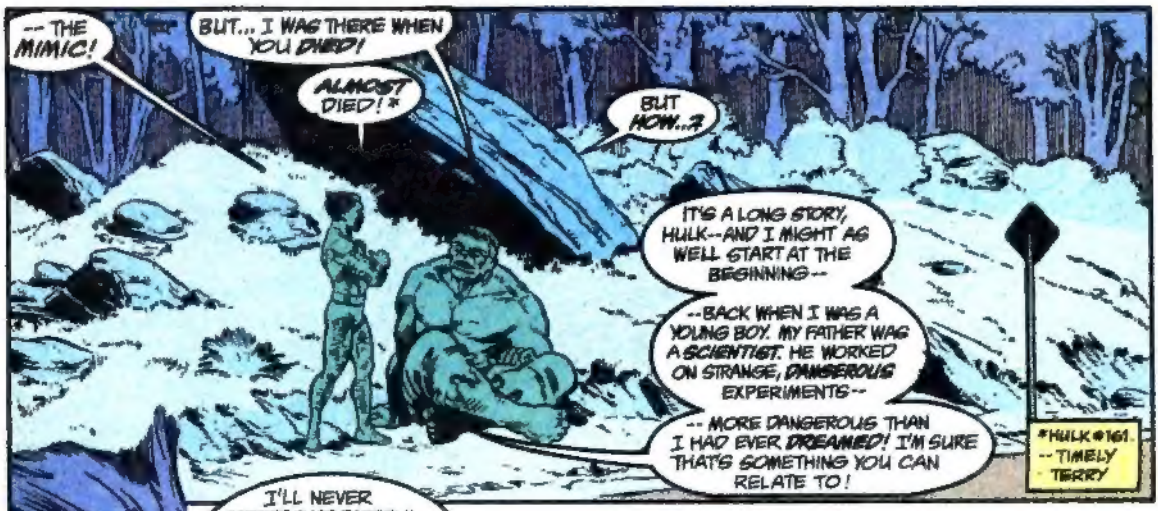
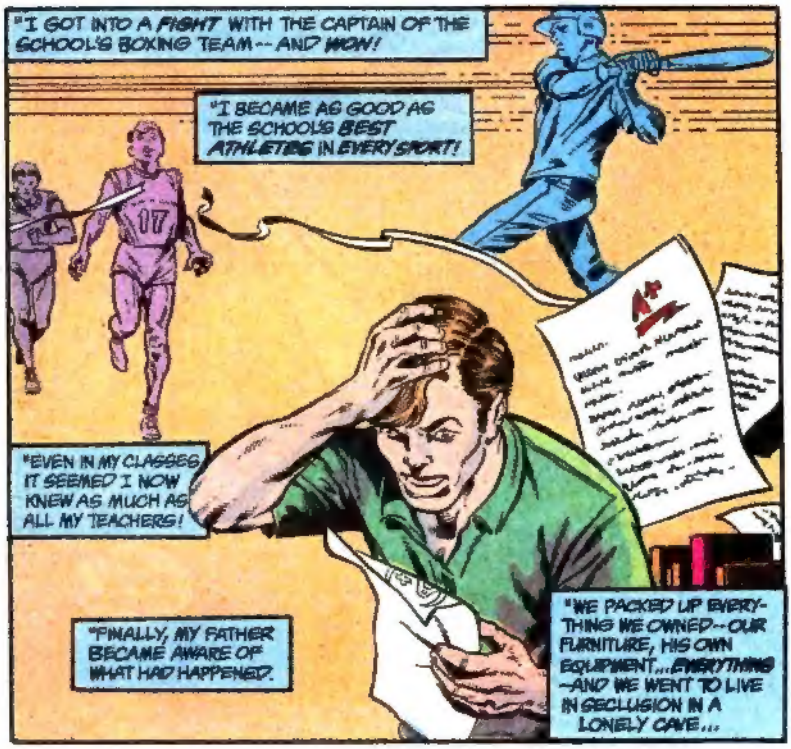
ON THE ROAD with WOLVERINE and the HULK
PART 6
OLD FRIENDS
THAT'S RIGHT, HULK!
I'M NOT WOLVERINE!
I'M CALVIN RANKIN--


-- THE MIMIC!
BUT... I WAS THERE WHEN YOU DIED!
ALMOST DIED! *
BUT HOW...?
IT'S A LONG STORY, HULK--AND I MIGHT AS WELL START AT THE BEGINNING--
--BACK WHEN I WAS A YOUNG BOY. MY FATHER WAS A SCIENTIST. HE WORKED ON STRANGE, DANGEROUS EXPERIMENTS--
-- MORE DANGEROUS THAN I HAD EVER DREAMED! I'M SURE THAT'S SOMETHING YOU CAN RELATE TO!
*HULK #161 -- TIMELY TERRY

I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT FATEFUL DAY I INTERRUPTED HIM AS HE WAS WORKING IN HIS LABORATORY...
DAD!
I'VE TOLD YOU TO STAY OUT WHEN I'M WORKING! THIS ROOM IS OFF-LIMITS TO YOU!

"BUT I WOULDN'T LET IT GO AT THAT! I ALWAYS WAS A HEADSTRONG, COCKY KID! MY FATHER WENT OUT ON AN ERRAND, SO I DECIDED TO SATISFY MY CURIOSITY! BUT THEN...
I KNOCKED OVER A BEAKER! GAS--FILLING THE AIR ALL AROUND ME! CAN'T STOP BREATHING IT IN--!
"COUGHING, GASPING, I LEFT THE LAB, VIRTUALLY FORGETTING THE INCIDENT...UNTIL, IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, STRANGE THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN MORE AND MORE FREQUENTLY!


"I GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH THE CAPTAIN OF THE SCHOOL'S BOXING TEAM -- AND WOW!
"I BECAME AS GOOD AS THE SCHOOL'S BEST ATHLETES IN EVERY SPORT!
A+
"EVEN IN MY CLASSES, IT SEEMED I NOW KNEW AS MUCH AS ALL MY TEACHERS!
"FINALLY, MY FATHER BECAME AWARE OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED.
"WE PACKED UP EVERYTHING WE OWNED--OUR FURNITURE, HIS OWN EQUIPMENT...EVERYTHING --AND WE WENT TO LIVE IN SECLUSION IN A LONELY CAVE...

...THE SAME CAVE WHERE YOU AND I LATER ENCOUNTERED EACH OTHER FOR THE FIRST TIME!
MY FATHER WAS TRYING TO CURE ME--HE KEPT BLAMING HIMSELF! AND THE TOWNSPEOPLE--THEY WERE AFRAID.
DAD DIED TRYING TO SEAL OFF THE CAVE, UNDERESTIMATING THE FORCE OF THE BLAST HE HIMSELF HAD SET OFF!

"AFTER THAT, SOMETHING CHANGED INSIDE ME! MY HEART POUNDED WITH AN UNQUENCHABLE DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE! I BECAME MORE THAN BITTER! I WAS BRUTAL!

"I DON'T KNOW HOW VERA PUT UP WITH ME FOR AS LONG AS SHE DID, BUT IT WAS WHEN SHE STARTED TO DATE HANK MCCOY THAT I FLEW INTO A RAGE...

"...AND I FOUND MYSELF FIGHTING MCCOY AND HIS FRIEND BOBBY DRAKE WITH THEIR OWN POWERS --POWERS I RECOGNIZED AS THOSE OF TWO OF THE INFAMOUS X-MEN!"

SHORTLY AFTER THAT INCIDENT, I FOUND MYSELF USING TELE-KINESIS AND FOLLOWED SOMEONE I SURMISED WAS MARVEL GIRL BACK TO PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS*...

*X-MEN #19. --TENGE TERRY

"MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN MORE NOTICE OF THE SAVAGE TENDENCIES I WAS BEGINNING TO DEMONSTRATE EVEN THEN... BUT IT DIDN'T SEEM IMPORTANT!

"ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS DEMONSTRATE MY POWER BY DESTROYING THE X-MEN!

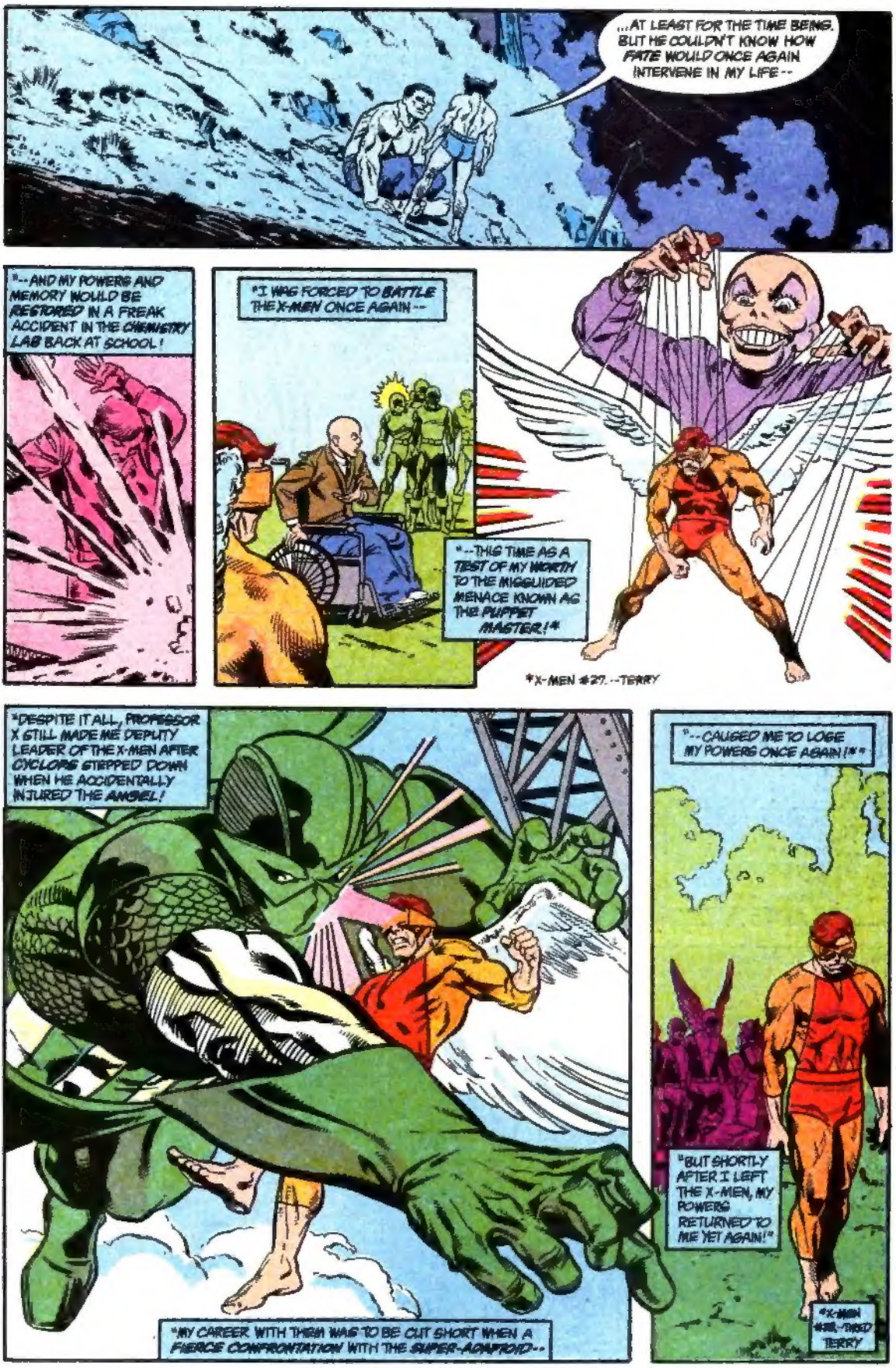
"BUT, THEY BESTED ME. SO, INSTEAD, I KIDNAPED MARVEL GIRL...AND MAYBE IN MY OWN TERRITORY I WOULD HAVE DEFEATED THE X-MEN, EXCEPT FOR WHAT MY FATHER SET UP!

"HE WAS ALWAYS THINKING AHEAD! IF I'D ONLY KNOWN THEN HOW FAR AHEAD!

"THE CAVE I FLED BACK TO WITH MARVEL GIRL TURNED OUT TO BE A TRAP LAID FOR ME BY MY OWN FATHER--

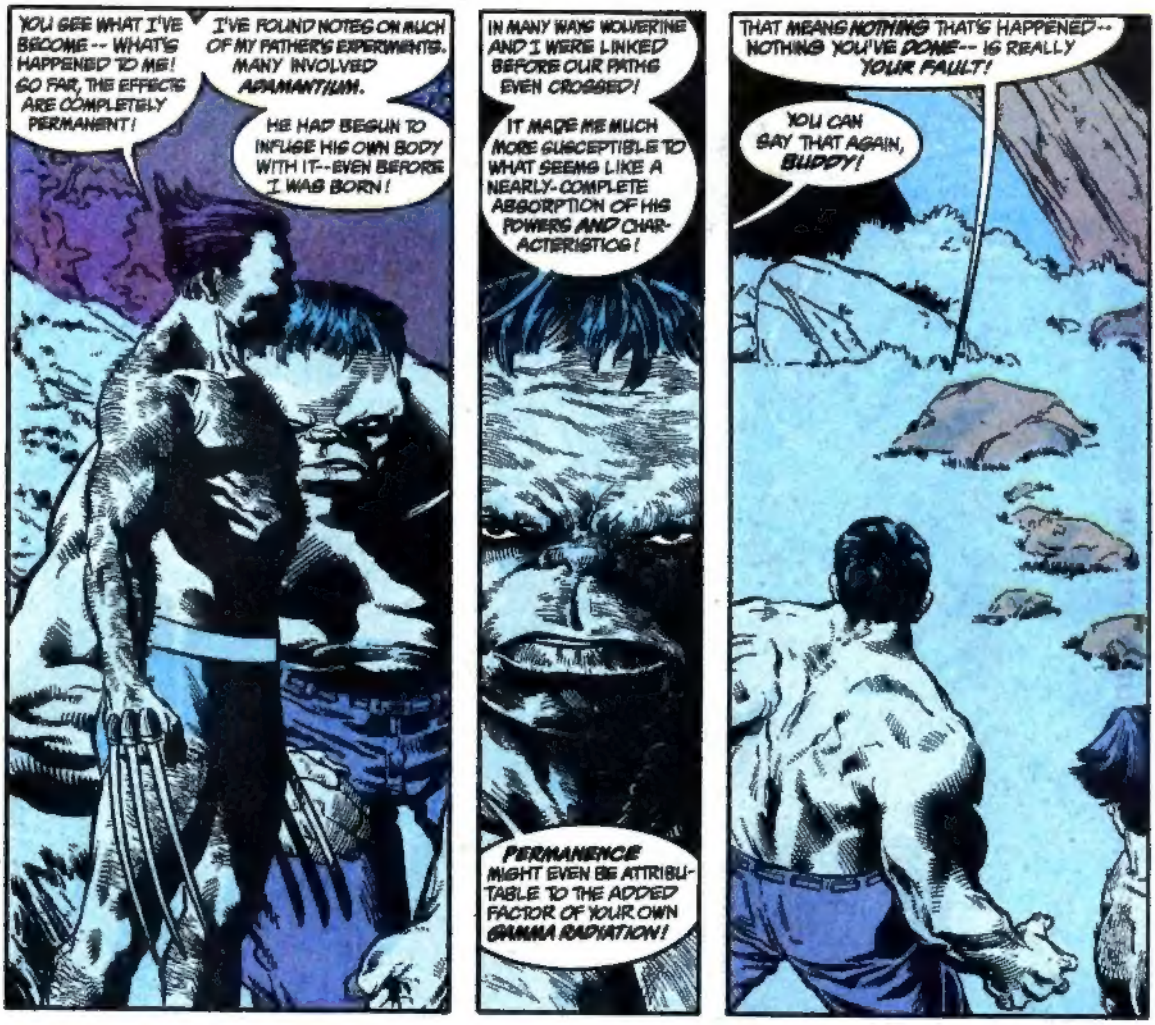
"-- WHOSE INCREDIBLE FORESIGHT HAD ENABLED HIM TO BUILD MACHINERY YEARS BEFORE THAT WAS ABLE TO CANCEL MY GREAT ABILITIES.

"LIKEWISE, PROFESSOR X SAW TO IT THAT MY MEMORY OF WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE WAS ERASED...


...AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. BUT HE COULDN'T KNOW HOW FATE WOULD ONCE AGAIN INTERVENE IN MY LIFE--
"--AND MY POWERS AND MEMORY WOULD BE RESTORED IN A FREAK ACCIDENT IN THE CHEMISTRY LAB BACK AT SCHOOL!
"I WAS FORCED TO BATTLE THE X-MEN ONCE AGAIN--
"--THIS TIME AS A TEST OF MY WORTH TO THE MISGUIDED MENACE KNOWN AS THE PUPPET MASTER!*
*X-MEN #27. --TERRY
"DESPITE IT ALL, PROFESSOR X STILL MADE ME DEPUTY LEADER OF THE X-MEN AFTER CYCLOPS STEPPED DOWN WHEN HE ACCIDENTALLY INJURED THE ANGEL!
"MY CAREER WITH THEM WAS TO BE CUT SHORT WHEN A FIERCE CONFRONTATION WITH THE SUPER-ADAPTOID--
"--CAUSED ME TO LOSE MY POWERS ONCE AGAIN!*"
"BUT SHORTLY AFTER I LEFT THE X-MEN, MY POWERS RETURNED TO ME YET AGAIN!"
*X-MEN #30.-TERRY

THAT'S WHEN I BEGAN TO REALIZE THAT MY POWERS MUST BE SOMEWHAT INHERENT.
YOU SEE, BEFORE I WAS BORN, MY FATHER HAD BEEN WORKING FOR THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE EARLY STAGES OF SOMETHING THAT WAS THEN CALLED PROJECT ALPHA/PROJECT OMEGA.
HE HAD INVOLVED HIMSELF IN SOME OF THE TESTS--SOME OF THE EXPERIMENTS!
THAT'S WHY HE HAD ALWAYS BLAMED HIMSELF FOR WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO ME!
"AND THAT'S WHEN THINGS REALLY STARTED TO GO OUT OF CONTROL! I NEEDED HELP--AND I SOUGHT IT OUT!
"AFTER HE SURREPTITIOUSLY CROSSED THE BORDER INTO CANADA WITH VERA, I MET UP WITH THE "NEW" BEAST--
*--ALBEIT IN HIS CIVILIAN DISGUISE, I EXPLAINED MY PROBLEM--HOW MY POWERS CHANGED EACH TIME THEY DISAPPEARED AND REAPPEARED... HOW THEY SEEMED TO KEEP GROWING STRONGER... HOW I WAS LOSING CONTROL!
"THE RANGE OF MY POWER WAS INCREASING. IT WAS REACHING OUT, SOON IT MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO KILL AT LONG DISTANCE--UNTIL EVERY SINGLE SOLITARY SOUL ON THE PLANET EARTH WOULD BE DEAD!
"EVEN YOU WERE AFFECTED AS YOU LEAPT ABOVE US!
"YOU FELT SICK--YOU MIGHT SAY YOU CAME CRASHING IN!
"THE BEAST TRIED TO KEEP YOU AT BAY--WHILE I UNDERWENT AN EXPERIMENT THAT WE ALL PRAYED WOULD MAKE ME HUMAN AGAIN... AND SAVE THE WORLD!"
"BUT YOU WERE TOO MUCH FOR THE BEAST--AND I KNEW I HAD TO INTERVENE BEFORE YOU KILLED HIM!
"THE EXPERIMENT HAD ALTERED MY NORMAL ABILITIES--AND I STARTED ABSORBING GAMMA RADIATION THAT WAS LOCKED WITHIN YOUR BODY...
"...I TRIED TO KILL MYSELF!"
"AND IT NEARLY WORKED--YOU ALL LEFT ME FOR DEAD!

THEN, ANOTHER FACTOR ENTERED INTO THE PICTURE.
"I BEGAN TO HEAL MYSELF. I WAS DRAWING THE POWERS OF A SOURCE THAT RENEWED MY VERY LIFE!
"ONLY NOW AM I BEGINNING TO REALIZE WHERE THOSE HEALING ENERGIES CAME FROM!
"I WAS MYSELF AGAIN, IF JUST FOR A MOMENT, AND ALL MY POWERS WERE GONE ONCE MORE--
"--BUT THEN, THEY RETURNED WITH A VENGEANCE, AND THEY WERE ALTERED AGAIN!
"MY FATHER'S EARLY EXPERIMENTS WERE SOMEHOW RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS NEW DEVIATION OF MY ABILITIES!
"I HAD NEVER FELT LIKE THIS BEFORE--EVEN WHEN GIVING MYSELF UP TO DEATH!
"SOMEHOW I WAS DRAWING MORE THAN JUST THE POWERS OF THOSE THAT WERE AROUND ME NOW--AND SOMEHOW, THE EFFECTS WERE BECOMING MORE PERMANENT!"
"THESE EVENTS TOOK PLACE SHORTLY BEFORE HULK #181,--TORPID TERRY


YOU SEE WHAT I'VE BECOME -- WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME! SO FAR, THE EFFECTS ARE COMPLETELY PERMANENT!
I'VE FOUND NOTES ON MUCH OF MY FATHER'S EXPERIMENTS. MANY INVOLVED ADAMANTIUM.
HE HAD BEGUN TO INFUSE HIS OWN BODY WITH IT--EVEN BEFORE I WAS BORN!
IN MANY WAYS WOLVERINE AND I WERE LINKED BEFORE OUR PATHS EVEN CROSSED!
IT MADE ME MUCH MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO WHAT SEEMS LIKE A NEARLY-COMPLETE ABSORPTION OF HIS POWERS AND CHARACTERISTICS!
PERMANENCE MIGHT EVEN BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ADDED FACTOR OF YOUR OWN GAMMA RADIATION!
THAT MEANS NOTHING THAT'S HAPPENED-- NOTHING YOU'VE DONE-- IS REALLY YOUR FAULT!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, BUDDY!
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE THE ONES WHO ARE REALLY TO BLAME -- 'LEAST I AM!
YOU MEAN YOU'RE ALIVE, TOO?!
HOW'D YOU MANAGE THAT, WOLVERINE?
WOLVERINE--?!

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, BUB!
I CAME BACK TO HELP YOU!
YOU'RE WRONG, PAL! I'M THE ONE WHO'S GONNA HELP YOU--RIGHT INTO YOUR GRAVE!
YOU SCREWED UP MY WHOLE LIFE--AND FOR THAT YOU'RE GONNA PAY WITH YOURS!

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT...

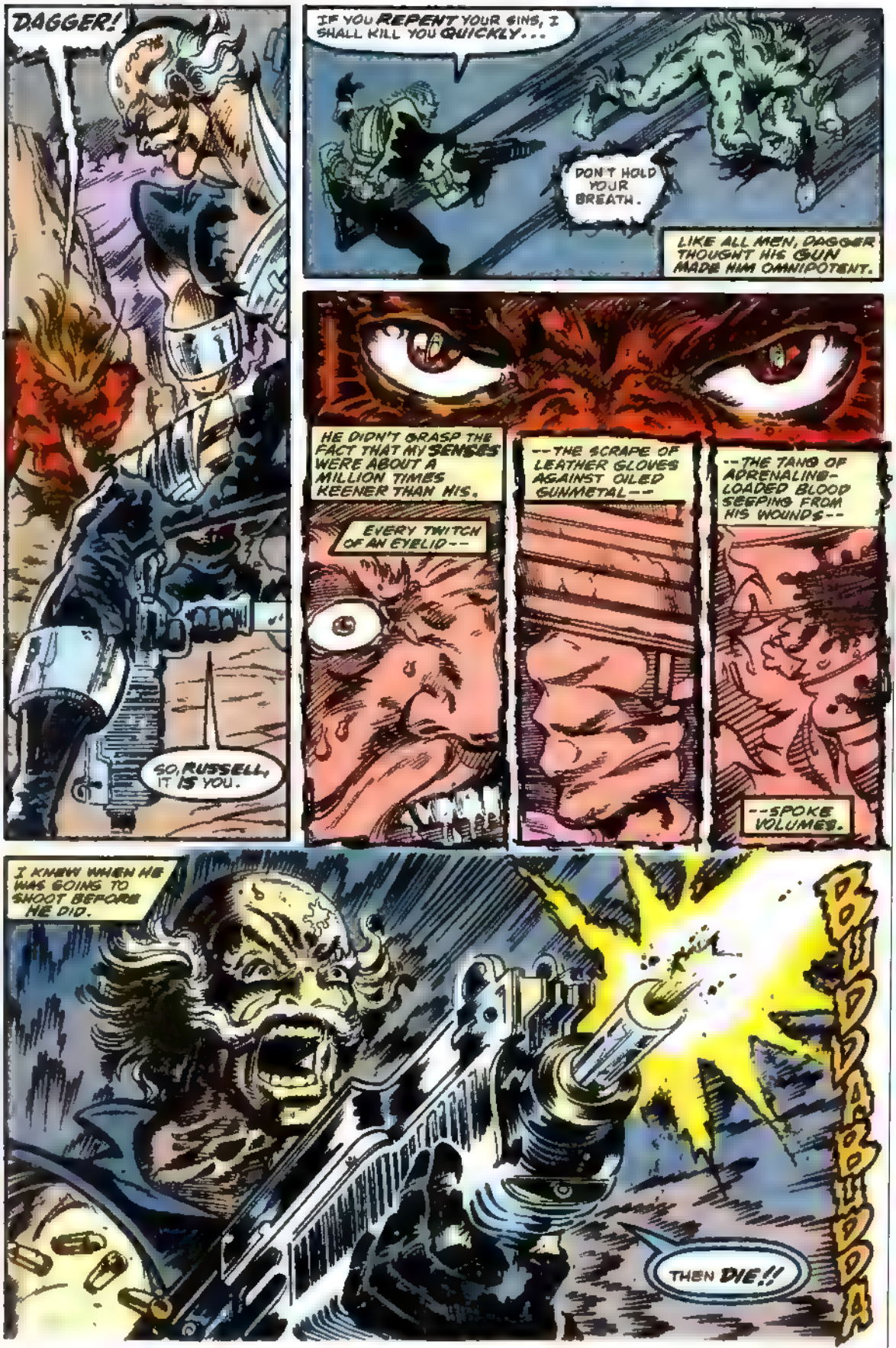
Chapter VI

REBORN TO BE WILD!

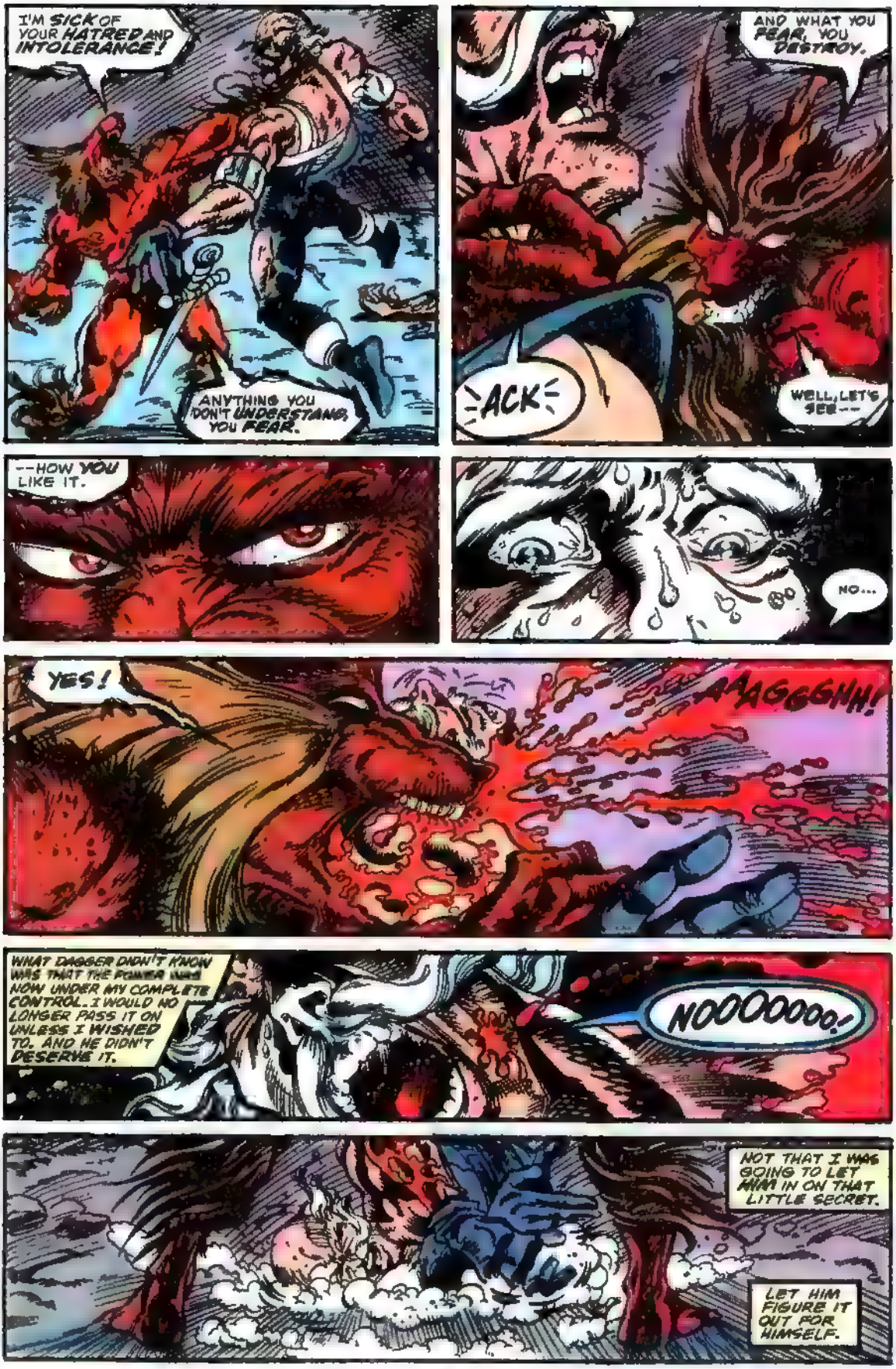
THIRD NIGHT CONTINUED: THIS IS HOW THE STORY ENDS.

KILL THEM.
PRAISE THE LORD, AND PASS THE AMMUNITION!
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT WAS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF DANTE'S INFERNO, EXCEPT THAT DANTE DIDN'T GIVE HIS CHARACTERS AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.
KILL THE SINNERS!
BRAKAKAKAKAKAKAKA
GERHARD! COVER ME!
AAHHK!
HHUURR-RRGH!
UKK!
FALL BACK! FALL BACK!
RRG!
YAARR-GGH
IT WAS A MASSACRE IN A SLAUGHTERHOUSE, WITH NO RHYME, NO REASON.
B-AM
BLAM
AAUKK!
JUST TWO MASSES OF DRIPPING RED MEAT TEARING AT EACH OTHER SAVAGELY, IN A FRENZIED ORGY OF DEATH!
DIE!!
SKRULP
HUR-HUR-HUR!
NO! NO! NO!
OH, SPIT!
RRRUURRRRRH
NO QUARTER. NO MERCY.
CHHK
CHHK
AAAAAAAAAAAAAA!

AND NO EXCEPTIONS.
TIME TO DIE, DEMON'S PAWN!
LOST IN THE KILLING FRENZY, LAYLA NEVER HAD A CHANCE.
HHRUUR-RRR?
ANIMAL FILTH!
UKK!
NO!
OF COURSE, I WAS TOO LATE. SHE WAS DEAD BEFORE SHE HIT THE GROUND.
AND THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO ABOUT IT...EXCEPT HOWL. HOWL IN BESTIAL LUST FOR THE BLOOD OF THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CARNAGE...


DAGGER!
SO, RUSSELL, IT IS YOU.
IF YOU REPENT YOUR SINS, I SHALL KILL YOU QUICKLY...
DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH.
LIKE ALL MEN, DAGGER THOUGHT HIS GUN MADE HIM OMNIPOTENT.
HE DIDN'T GRASP THE FACT THAT MY SENSES WERE ABOUT A MILLION TIMES KEENER THAN HIS.
EVERY TWITCH OF AN EYELID--
--THE SCRAPE OF LEATHER GLOVES AGAINST OILED GUNMETAL--
--THE TANG OF ADRENALINE-LOADED BLOOD SEEPING FROM HIS WOUNDS--
--SPOKE VOLUMES.
I KNEW WHEN HE WAS GOING TO SHOOT BEFORE HE DID.
BUDDABUDDA
THEN DIE!!

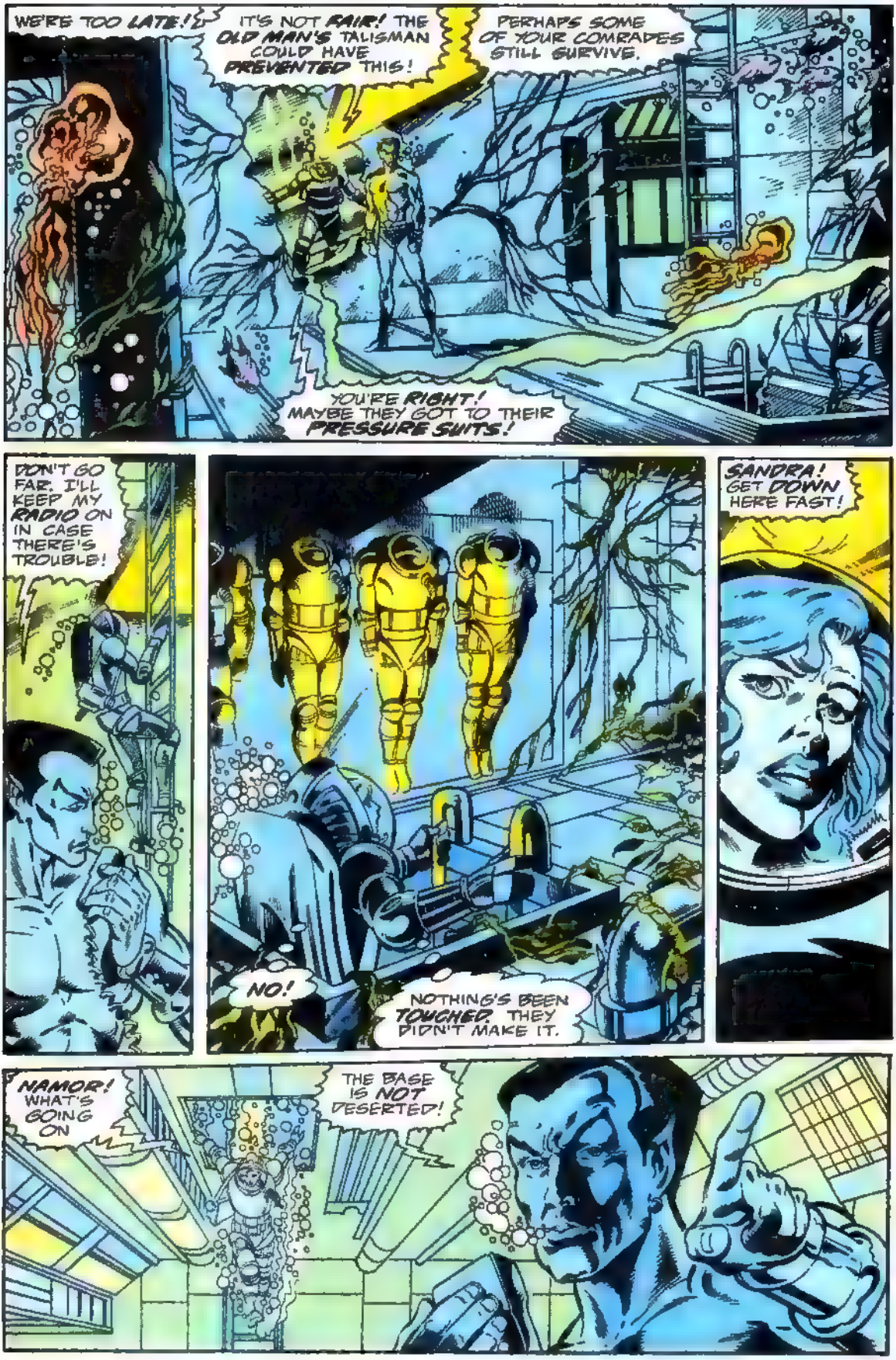
ENOUGH!
HE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN MOVING IN SLOW MOTION, FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DID HIM.
IT'S OVER, DAGGER!
THIS MADNESS ENDS HERE!
NO!
YOU-WILL-BE-EXPUNGED!
WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS A FA...RE TO COMMUNICATE!
I SAID, IT'S OVER!
NEVER!
SOME PEOPLE JUST DON'T LEARN.

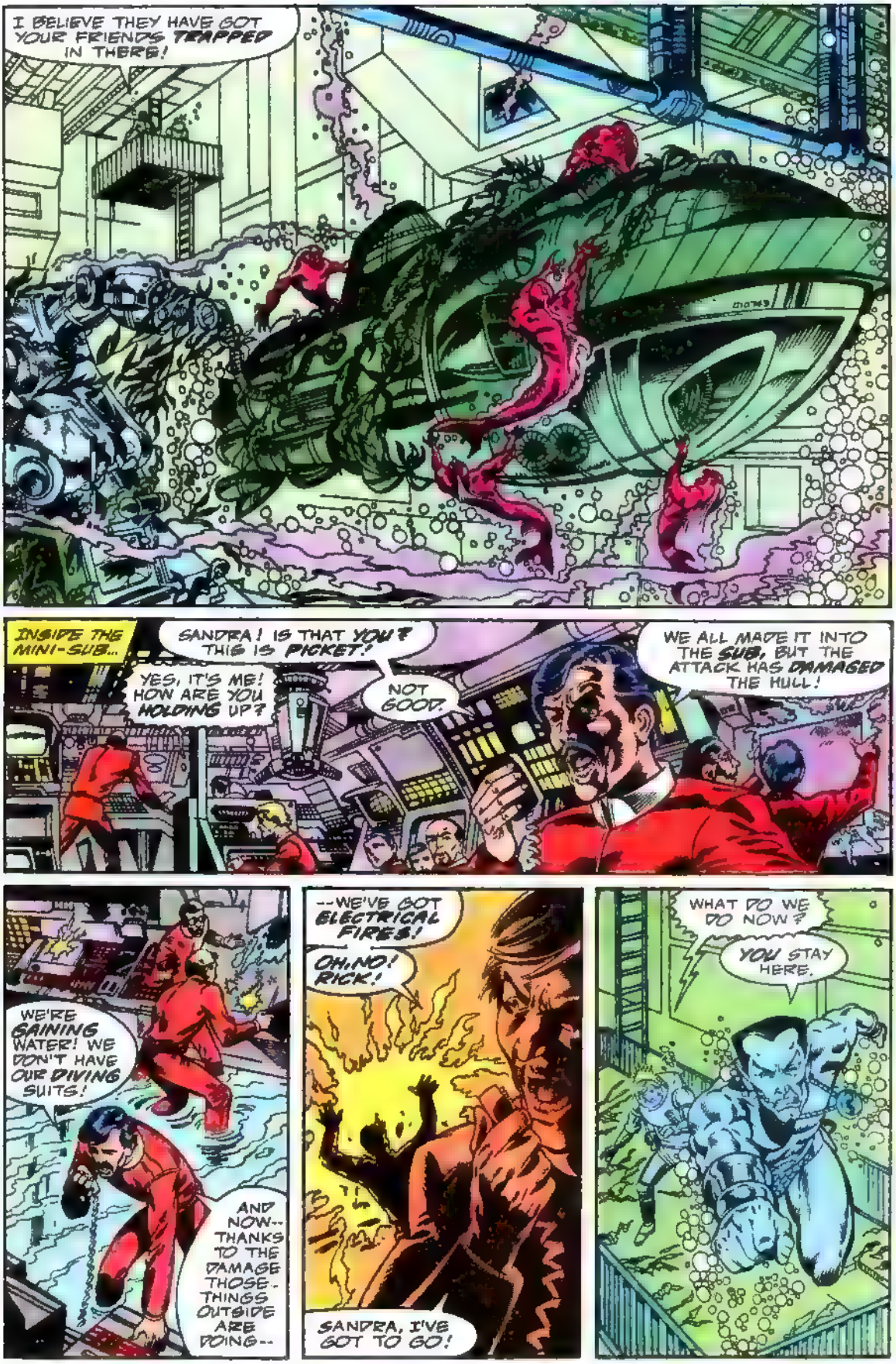

I'M SICK OF YOUR HATRED AND INTOLERANCE!
ANYTHING YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, YOU FEAR.
AND WHAT YOU FEAR, YOU DESTROY.
ACK
WELL, LET'S SEE---
--HOW YOU LIKE IT.
NO...
YES!
AAAGGGHH!
WHAT DAGGER DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT THE POWER WAS NOW UNDER MY COMPLETE CONTROL. I WOULD NO LONGER PASS IT ON UNLESS I WISHED TO. AND HE DIDN'T DESERVE IT.
NOOOOOOO!
NOT THAT I WAS GOING TO LET HIM IN ON THAT LITTLE SECRET.
LET HIM FIGURE IT OUT FOR HIMSELF.

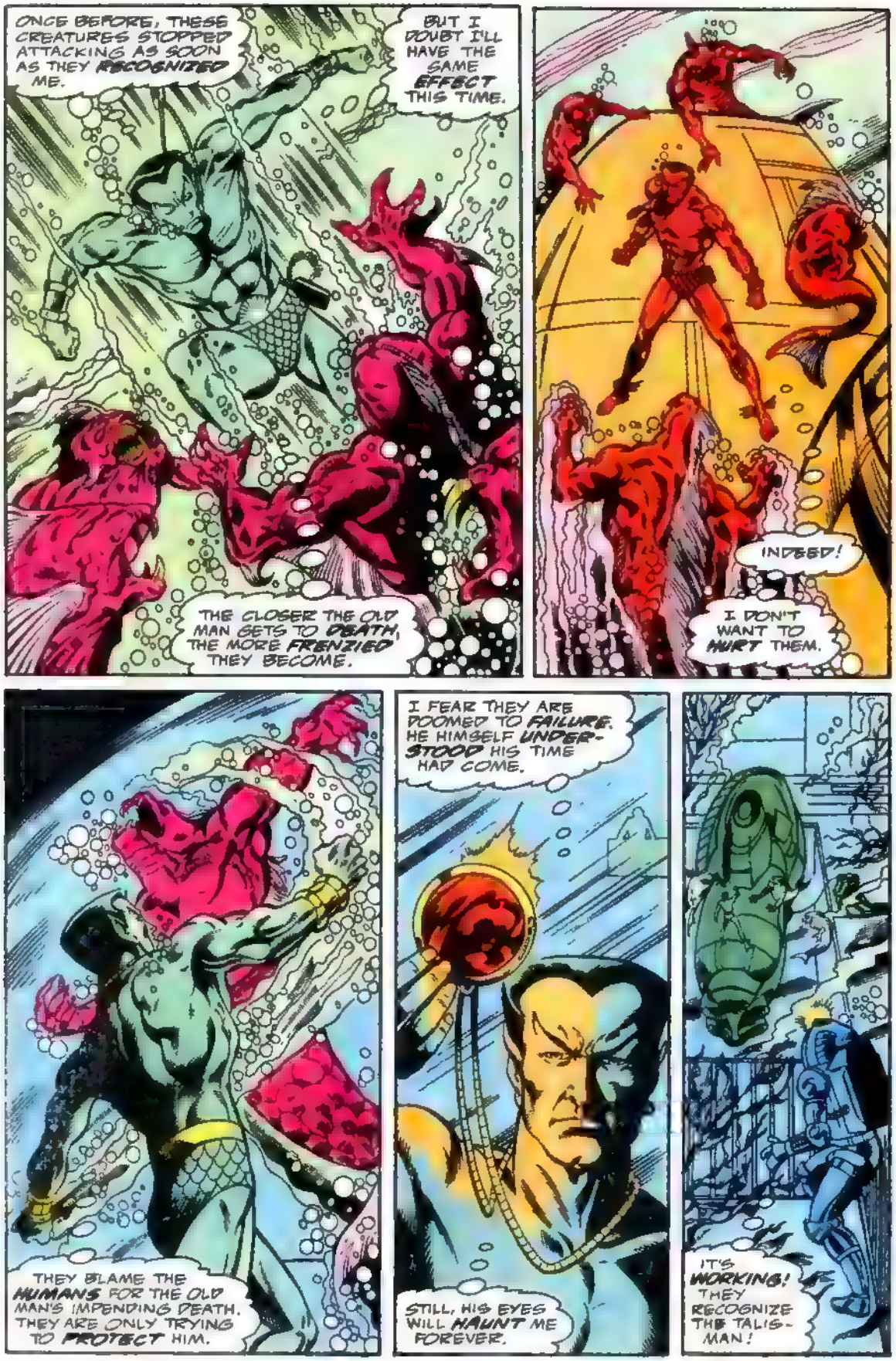
NO...NO...THE BLOOD TAINT... TOO DEEP TO BE CUT AWAY... NO!
GOD HAVE MERCY!!
MERCY, DAGGER?
LOOK AROUND.
THIS IS YOUR GOD'S WORK!
MADNESS AND DEATH!!
YOUR GOD HAS NO MERCY!
THINK ABOUT IT.
THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT FOR ME TO DO THERE.
I HIT THE ROAD.
UNCLEAN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT BECAME OF DAGGER AFTER THAT...
MY LORD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME...?
BUT I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS...

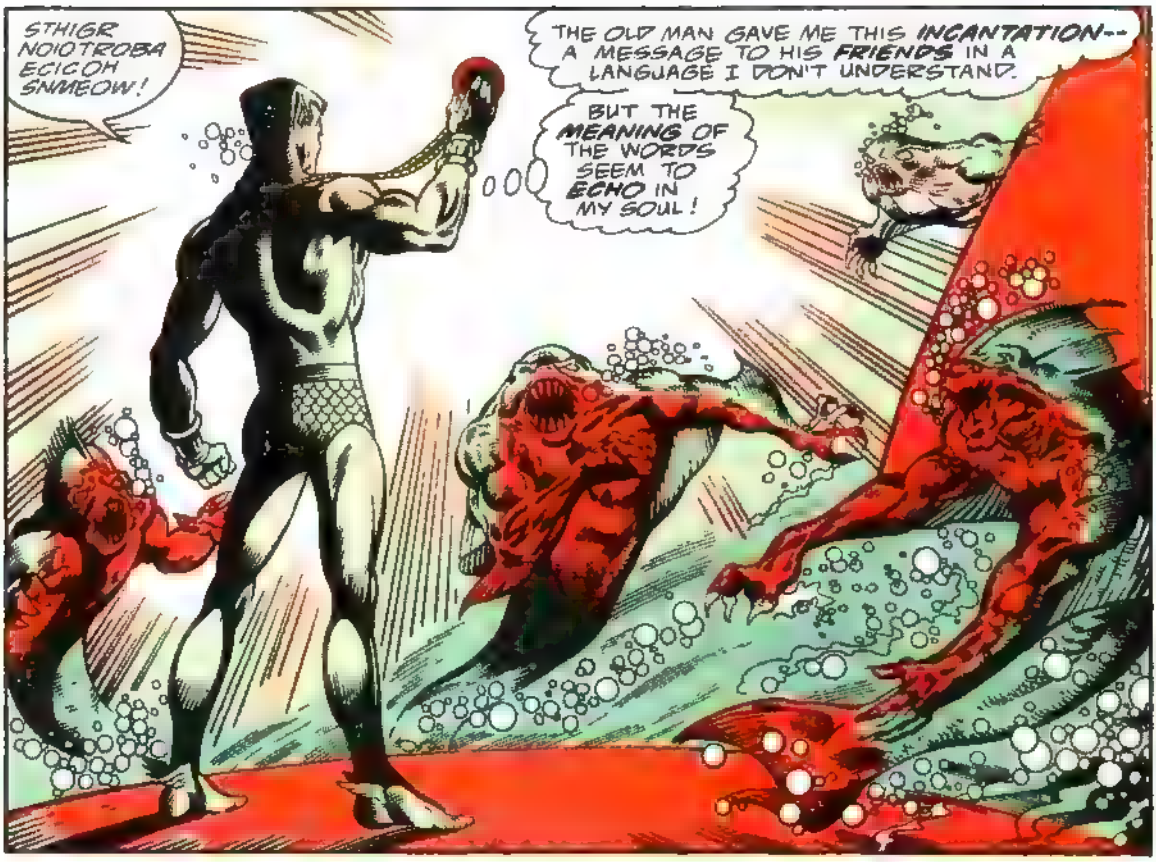
SO, THAT'S MY STORY.
IF THERE'S ANY MORAL TO IT, IT'S THIS--
--WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF THE BEAST. SAVAGERY IS OUR HERITAGE, BLOOD AND MADNESS OUR BIRTHRIGHT.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T-- OR SHOULDN'T-- CHANGE.
I'VE CHANGED, IN WAYS BEYOND THE COSMETIC.
ALTHOUGH I DO KINDA LIKE MY "NEW LOOK."
I AM SOMETHING UNIQUE AND WONDERFUL.
MY EARS PRICK UP AT THE SOUND OF THE RUSTLING BREEZES.
I CATCH THE SWEET, DARK SCENT OF THE FOREST PRIMEVAL, AND I GET GOOSEBUMPS.
I'VE ONLY BEGUN TO LEARN MY NEW POTENTIAL. BUT I'M WORKING ON IT.
AND I HAVE A MISSION..
...SOMEWHERE, OUT THERE, ARE OTHERS LIKE I USED TO BE.
PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY THE PARANORMAL. TERRIFIED OF WHAT THEY'VE BECOME. PERSECUTED BY A PARANOID SOCIETY.
AND MAYBE... MAYBE THERE ARE EVEN MORE OF MY "CHILDREN" OUT THERE.
I MEAN TO FIND THEM. AND HELP THEM, IF I CAN.
MAN-BEAST IN COLORADO?
MORE CATTLE FOUND MUTILATED
CIA denies mystery helicopter
BUT THAT'S FOR THE FUTURE.
FOR TONIGHT, ALL I NEED IS A FOREST THAT HAS NEVER KNOWN MAN, AND A NIGHT TO RUN FREE WITH THE MOON.
FIRST NIGHT ..
THE END... FOR NOW.

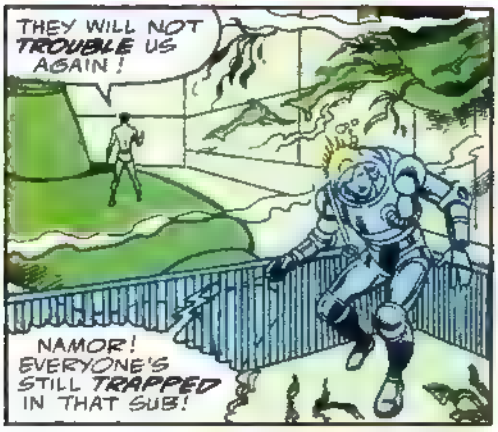
SUB-MARINER
NEPTUNE'S EYE: PART 3
SENDING THEM HOME
THE TRIP BACK FROM NEPTUNE'S EYE HAS BEEN LONG AND SILENT FOR NAMOR AND SANDRA.
THEIR BITTER FEUDING HAS BEEN SET ASIDE, IN COMMON FEAR OF WHAT THEY MIGHT FIND AT THE END OF THEIR JOURNEY
SO THEIR TWO HEARTS SINK AS ONE WHEN THEY FIRST CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE BASE...

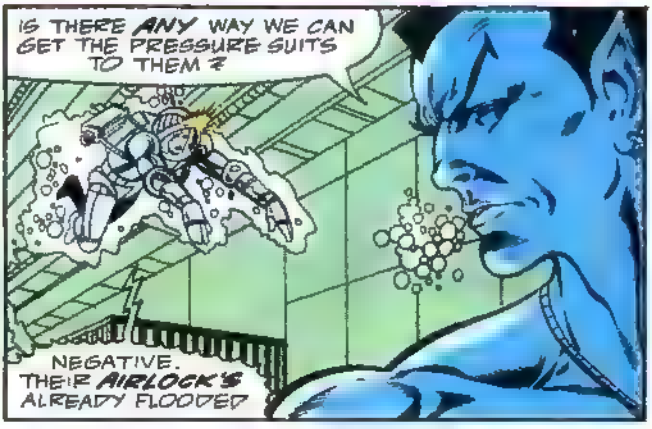

WE'RE TOO LATE!
IT'S NOT FAIR! THE OLD MAN'S TALISMAN COULD HAVE PREVENTED THIS!
PERHAPS SOME OF YOUR COMRADES STILL SURVIVE.
YOU'RE RIGHT! MAYBE THEY GOT TO THEIR PRESSURE SUITS!
DON'T GO FAR. I'LL KEEP MY RADIO ON IN CASE THERE'S TROUBLE!
NO!
NOTHING'S BEEN TOUCHED. THEY DIDN'T MAKE IT.
SANDRA! GET DOWN HERE FAST!
NAMOR! WHAT'S GOING ON
THE BASE IS NOT DESERTED!


I BELIEVE THEY HAVE GOT YOUR FRIENDS TRAPPED IN THERE!
INSIDE THE MINI-SUB...
SANDRA! IS THAT YOU? THIS IS PICKET!
YES, IT'S ME! HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP?
NOT GOOD.
WE ALL MADE IT INTO THE SUB, BUT THE ATTACK HAS DAMAGED THE HULL!
WE'RE GAINING WATER! WE DON'T HAVE OUR DIVING SUITS!
AND NOW-- THANKS TO THE DAMAGE THOSE THINGS OUTSIDE ARE DOING--
--WE'VE GOT ELECTRICAL FIRES!
OH, NO! RICK!
SANDRA, I'VE GOT TO GO!
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
YOU STAY HERE.

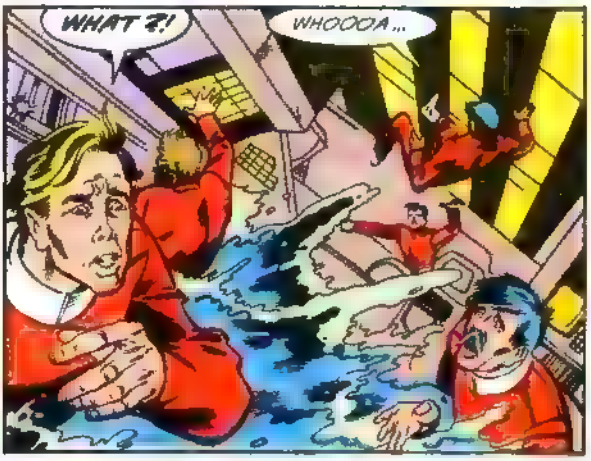

ONCE BEFORE, THESE CREATURES STOPPED ATTACKING AS SOON AS THEY RECOGNIZED ME.
BUT I DOUBT I'LL HAVE THE SAME EFFECT THIS TIME.
THE CLOSER THE OLD MAN GETS TO DEATH, THE MORE FRENZIED THEY BECOME.
INDEED!
I DON'T WANT TO HURT THEM.
THEY BLAME THE HUMANS FOR THE OLD MAN'S IMPENDING DEATH. THEY ARE ONLY TRYING TO PROTECT HIM.
I FEAR THEY ARE DOOMED TO FAILURE. HE HIMSELF UNDERSTOOD HIS TIME HAD COME.
STILL, HIS EYES WILL HAUNT ME FOREVER.
IT'S WORKING! THEY RECOGNIZE THE TALISMAN!

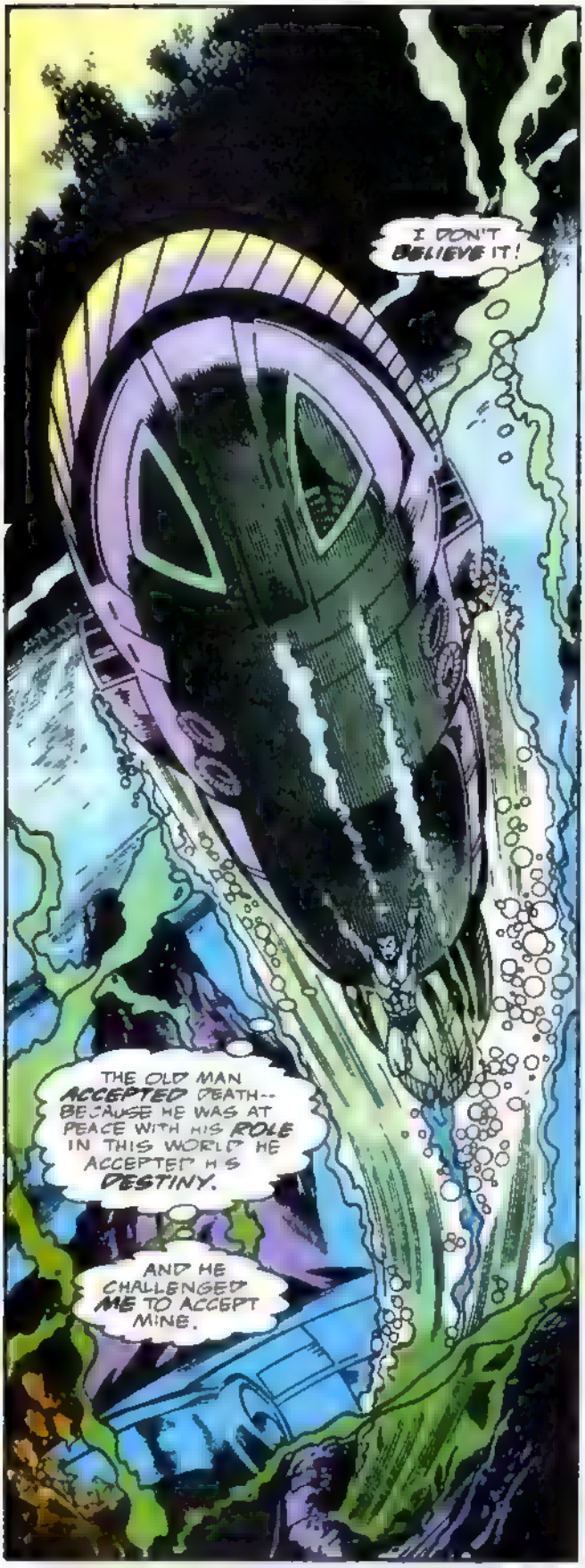

STHIGR NOIOTROBA ECICOH SNMEOW!
THE OLD MAN GAVE ME THIS INCANTATION-- A MESSAGE TO HIS FRIENDS IN A LANGUAGE I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
BUT THE MEANING OF THE WORDS SEEM TO ECHO IN MY SOUL!


THEY WILL NOT TROUBLE US AGAIN!
NAMOR! EVERYONE'S STILL TRAPPED IN THAT SUB!

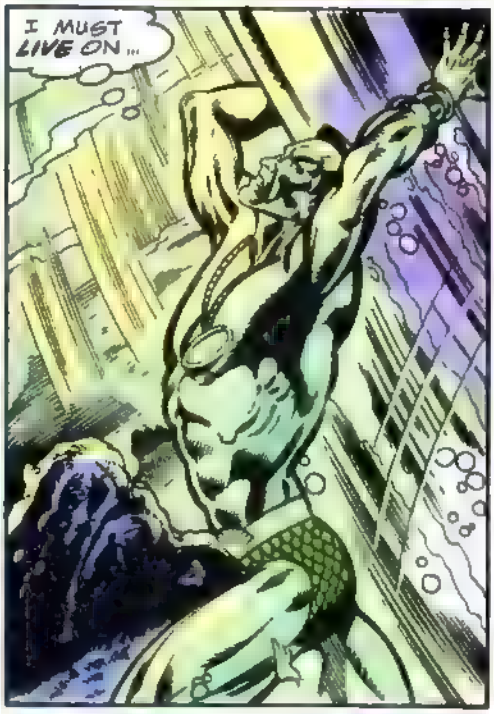

IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN GET THE PRESSURE SUITS TO THEM?
NEGATIVE. THEIR AIRLOCK'S ALREADY FLOODED

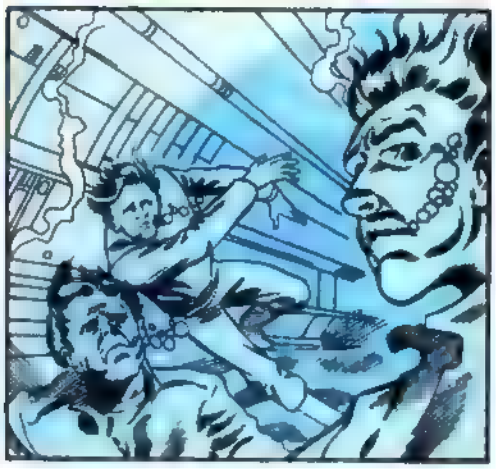
NAMOR, WHAT - DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? YOU CAN'T--!?
NAMOR!

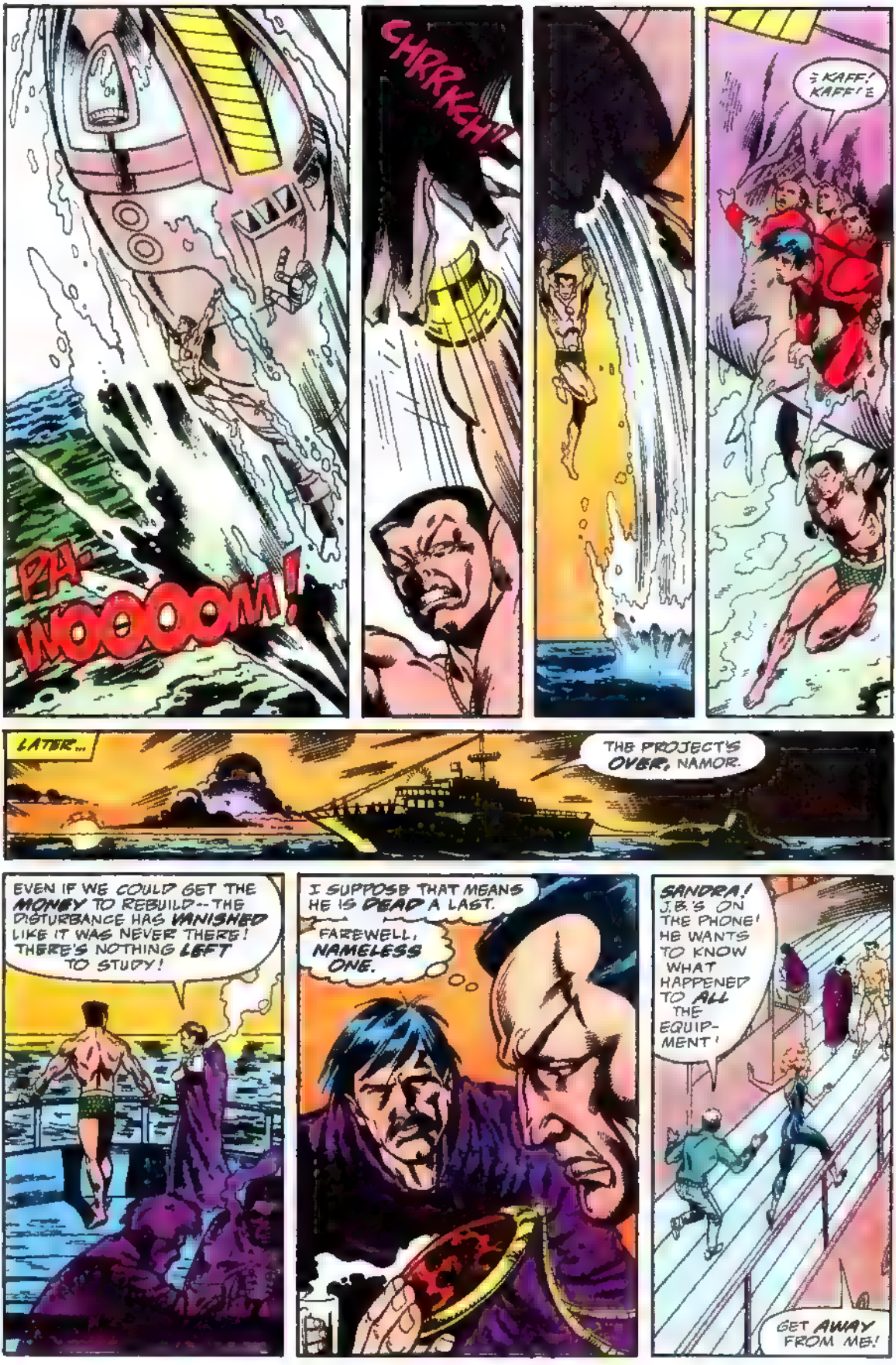

WHAT?!
WHOOOA...


I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
THE OLD MAN ACCEPTED DEATH-- BECAUSE HE WAS AT PEACE WITH HIS ROLE IN THIS WORLD! HE ACCEPTED HIS DESTINY.
AND HE CHALLENGED ME TO ACCEPT MINE.

MARRINA, I CAN-NOT MOURN YOU FOREVER.

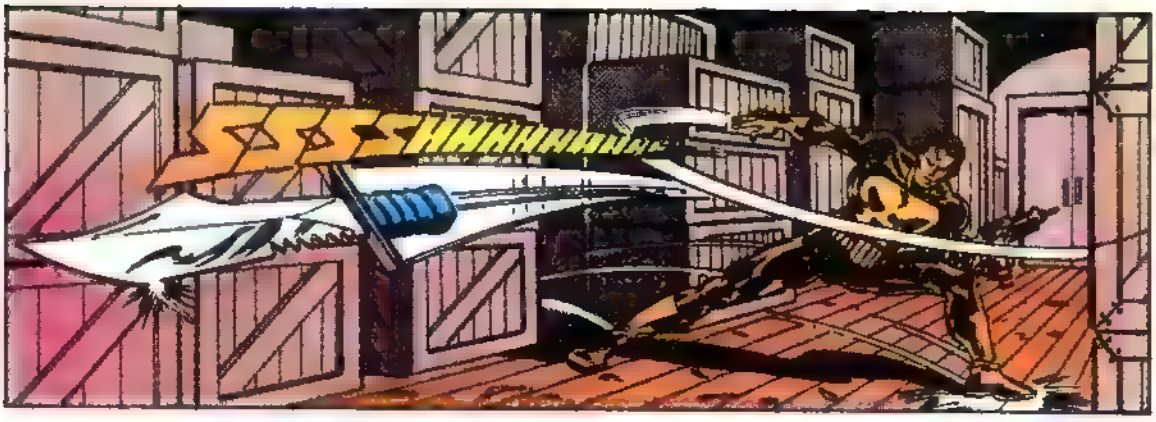

I MUST LIVE ON...

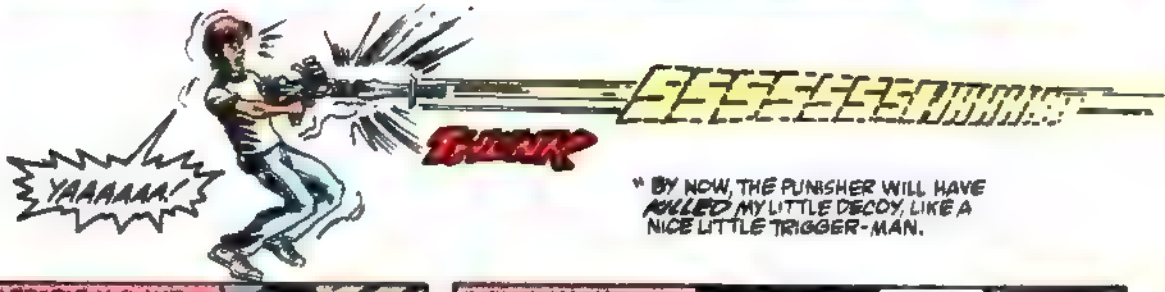



PH-WOOOOM!
CHRRKH!
KAFF! KAFF!
LATER...
THE PROJECT'S OVER, NAMOR.
EVEN IF WE COULD GET THE MONEY TO REBUILD--THE DISTURBANCE HAS VANISHED LIKE IT WAS NEVER THERE! THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO STUDY!
I SUPPOSE THAT MEANS HE IS DEAD AT LAST.
FAREWELL, NAMELESS ONE.
SANDRA! J.B.'S ON THE PHONE! HE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE EQUIPMENT!
GET AWAY FROM ME!

WHAT A DISASTER! TWO MEN DEAD! THE EXPEDITION'S FINISHED!
AND I LOST MY CAMERA DURING OUR "SUPER-SPEED" TRIP FROM THE BOTTOM--
- THE ONLY WORTH-WHILE FILM WE SHOT!
NOW ALL I HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO IS GOING BACK TO HOLLY-WOOD! BLECCH!
TAKE HEART, SANDRA. I'M NOT SURE I UNDER-STAND YOU, BUT YOU'RE A BOLD WO-MAN, BRAVER THAN MOST HUMANS I'VE MET!
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY! WHERE DO YOU GO NOW? BACK TO THE SEA?
YES, TO FOLLOW MY DESTINY!
"FOLLOW YOUR DESTINY." YOU SUPER HERO TYPES ALWAYS GO FOLLOWING YOUR DESTINY--BUT WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE PEOPLE LIKE US?
WATCHING MOVIES AND T.V., I GUESS, ALTER-NATING BETWEEN FANTASTIC ILLUSIONS AND DAILY MONOTONY.
GO! I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU ANYMORE!
YOU ARE NOT BEING FAIR!
YEAH, LIFE ISN'T FAIR, IS IT?
WE ALL MAKE OUR OWN LIVES, SANDRA...
...IF WE CAN FACE THE RESPONSIBILITY.
US COAST GUARD
SANDRA! J.B.'S READY TO EXPLODE! HE SAYS YOUR NEXT ASSIGN-MENT'S GOING TO BE PR FILMS FOR A SHOE LACE FACTORY!
SANDRA?!
THE END.

THE REAL THING
FEATURING:
THE PUNISHER
"HE'S BEEN UP THERE FOR HOURS, WAITING. PATIENT MAN. HE MUST BE GETTING ANTSY BY NOW.
"AFTER ALL, HE CAME HERE GEARED FOR ACTION. PRIMED TO PUNISH. THAT'S HOW HE GOT HIS NAME.
"HE'S READY. NOW'S THE TIME TO STRIKE.
THUNK
"THAT'S WHAT MAKES A GOOD BUSINESSMAN--TIMING.



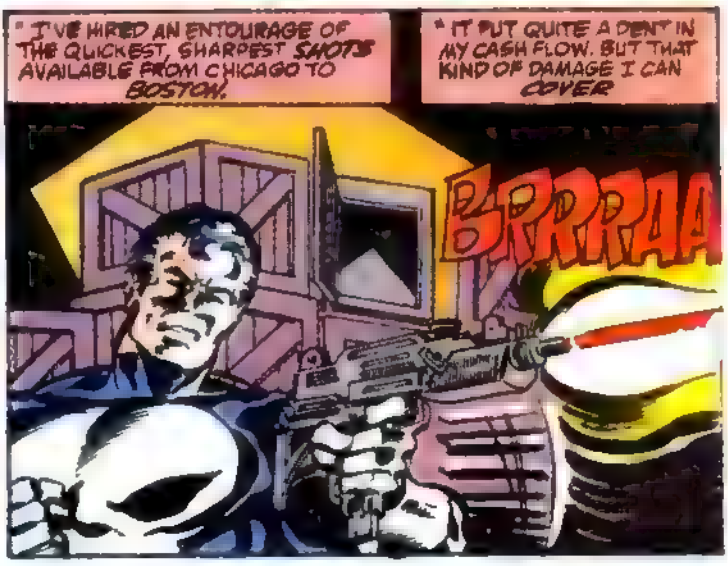

YAAAAAA!
BLAM!
FFFF

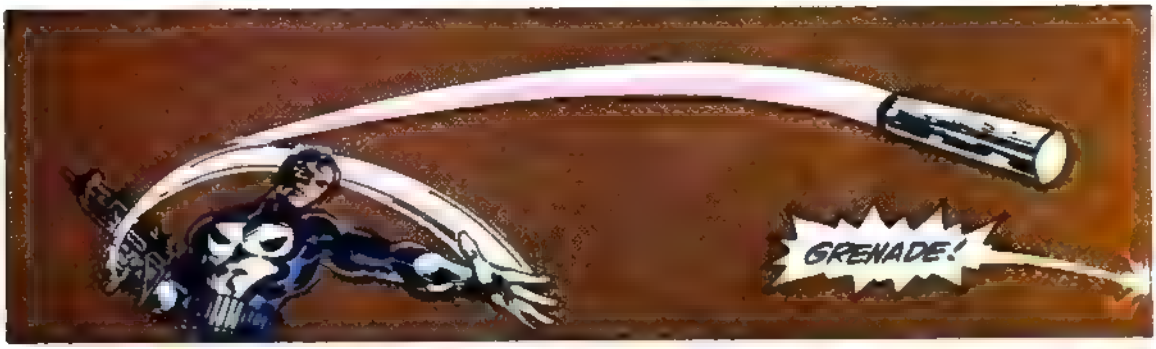
HEY, YOU'RE THE PUNISHER, AIN'T YOU? THE GUY WHO HUNTS DOWN BAD GUYS!
WE USEDTA PLAY GANG WAR, IN SCHOOL, Y'KNOW? AND I USEDTA BE YOU! YOU'RE THE BEST! I...
YOU'RE NOT ME. YOU RE A CHILD. AND GUNS AREN'T TOYS FOR CHILDREN.
N NAW! MR. LING SAID IT'D BE OKAY! HE GIVED ME THE SQUIRT GUN, AN' SAID I COULD PLAY UP HERE! SENT ME UP THE FIRE ESCAPE TO GO THROUGH THE WINDOW, Y'KNOW, 'CAUSE HE COULDN'T FIND HIS KEY.
" I'VE HEARD THE PUNISHER'S FAMILY WAS KILLED IN A MOB SHOOTOUT, OR SOMETHING. HIS SON WAS ABOUT TIMMY'S AGE
I WONDER IF HE'LL CATCH THE POETIC IRONY..."
BR-LAMM
THERE! GETHIM!
"... OR IF HE'LL SEE HOW CAREFULLY I PLANNED ALL THIS, FROM THE STOOLIE I PAID TO SET UP A FALSE TRAIL, TO THIS LITTLE RECEPTION.
"THAT'S WHAT MAKES A GOOD BUSINESSMAN -- HOMEWORK.
BRRDDAMM BBRRDRP BLAMM
GET DOWN, KID!
OH, MAN! THOSE WERE BIG GUNS! JUST LIKE IN, Y'KNOW, PLATOON OR SOMETHING!
BULLETS EVEN RIPPED OPEN THIS BOX OF --
OH, MAN!
BOORRRAM
KRAK BLAM
KRAK BOOM

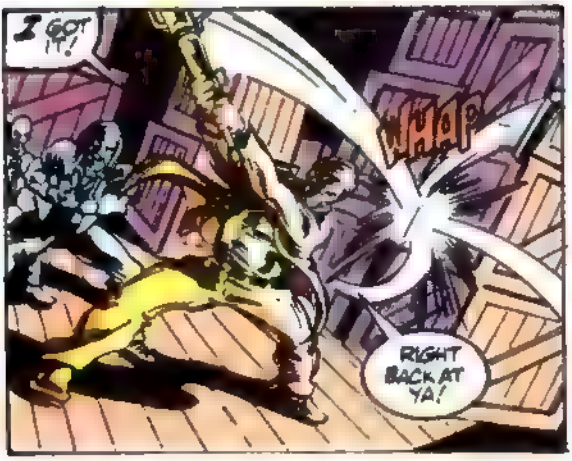
BRRRRDDDDDDPPPP
"WHEN I FIRST HEARD THE PUNISHER WAS GUNNING FOR ME, I KNEW I HAD TO BE READY.
"OR HE'D PUT MY BACK TO THE WALL -- LIKE MY BOYS'LL HAVE HIM, BY NOW.
"OF COURSE, I'VE LEFT HIM HIS WAY OUT -- THE OPEN WINDOW TO THE FIRE ESCAPE. HE COULD JUMP OUT TO FREEDOM...
"...WITH SNIPERS ABOVE AND BELOW, THE FINAL FREEDOM OF THE GRAVE.
"HE'LL BE AT THE WINDOW NOW...
"...UNLESS THE KID'S STILL ALIVE.
TIMMY--DON'T COME OUT UN'TIL I SAY! STAY DOWN!
"IF THE KID'S ALIVE, THE PUNISHER MIGHT TRY TO MAKE A STAND...
AND MY BOYS WILL GET THEM BOTH.
BDDRRRPP
BRDANG
KCHING
whoooaaa!
THIS'S LIKE, Y'KNOW, INDIANA JONES OR SOMETHIN'!
COMPLETE WITH SECRET PANELS -- OR AIR DUCTS OR WHATEVER.
BUT THAT'S OKAY -- I GOT MY RAPID-FIRE MONSTER-ZAPPER!
TOO COOL!

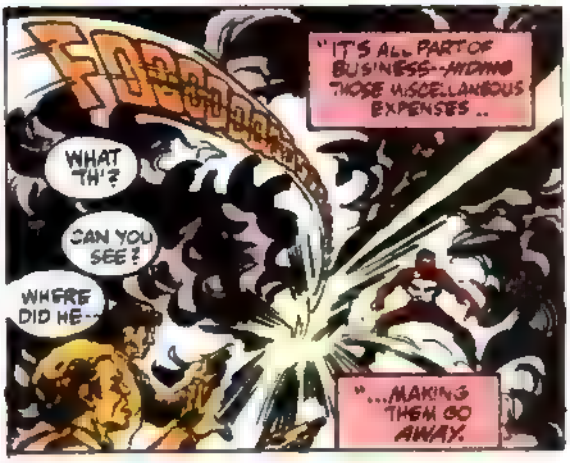
"IF THE KID WERE ALIVE, HE WOULDN'T BE FOR LONG.
THROUGH THE DARK CAVERNS OF... OF GOOGAM... THE HERO MAKES HIS WAY...
YUCK! ALL MESSY IN HERE! GETTIN' GUNK ON MY GUN!
...MAKES HIS WAY...
"THE PUNISHER'S KEVLAR VEST CAN ONLY STOP BULLETS FOR SO LONG.

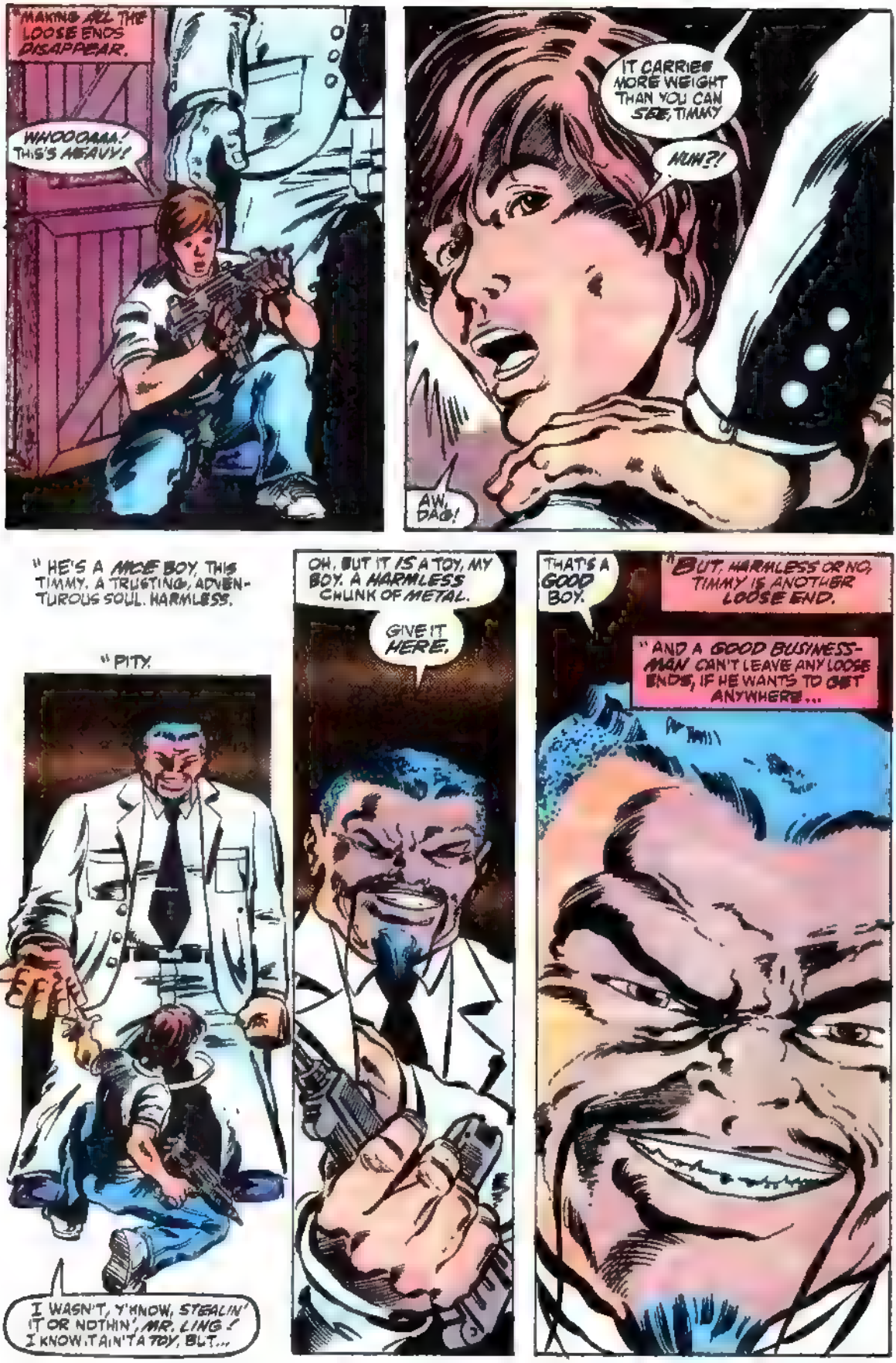
"AND THERE IS NO WAY...
...OUT!
WHAM


"I'VE HIRED AN ENTOURAGE OF THE QUICKEST, SHARPEST SHOTS AVAILABLE FROM CHICAGO TO BOSTON.
"IT PUT QUITE A DENT IN MY CASH FLOW. BUT THAT KIND OF DAMAGE I CAN COVER
BRRRRAA


GRENADE!


I GOT IT!
WHAP
RIGHT BACK AT YA!


"IT'S ALL PART OF BUSINESS--HIDING THOSE MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES..
WHAT TH'?
CAN YOU SEE?
WHERE DID HE--
"...MAKING THEM GO AWAY.


"MAKING ALL THE LOOSE ENDS DISAPPEAR.
WHOOOAAA! THIS'S HEAVY!
IT CARRIES MORE WEIGHT THAN YOU CAN SEE, TIMMY
HUH?!
AW, DAD!
" HE'S A NICE BOY, THIS TIMMY. A TRUSTING, ADVENTUROUS SOUL. HARMLESS.
" PITY.
I WASN'T, Y'KNOW, STEALIN' IT OR NOTHIN', MR. LING! I KNOW IT AIN'T A TOY, BUT...
OH, BUT IT IS A TOY, MY BOY. A HARMLESS CHUNK OF METAL.
GIVE IT HERE.
THAT'S A GOOD BOY.
" BUT, HARMLESS OR NO, TIMMY IS ANOTHER LOOSE END.
" AND A GOOD BUSINESSMAN CAN'T LEAVE ANY LOOSE ENDS, IF HE WANTS TO GET ANYWHERE...

"...IF HE WANTS TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP
EVERYBODY GROUP BACK-TO-BACK-- SPRAY THE ROOM--IN CASE HE'S TRYING TO SLIP BY!
WE'LL GET HIM EVEN IF WE CAN'T SEE HIM!
THAT'S IT, BOYS. TIGHT FORMATION.
MAKE A NICE, NEAT PILE.
OOOO
"YOU UNDERSTAND, TIMMY, THAT I DON'T ENJOY THIS. WHAT I DO, I DO BECAUSE I MUST. THIS IS WHAT MAKES A GOOD BUSINESS-MAN.
"HAVING A CLEAR VIEW OF ANY GIVEN SITUATION...
"...AND DOING WHAT MUST BE DONE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HEY--YOU BETTER WATCH OUT. THE PUNISHER, Y'KNOW, IS...
THE PUNISHER, MY BOY, IS DEAD BY NOW. WITHOUT HIS ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, HE WAS AS USE-LESS AS THIS UZI...
...UNLOADED.
KLIK
UNTIL NOW.
NO!

NOW, NOW, TIMMY. STUBBORN REFUSAL OF WHAT *IS* IS THE DOWNFALL OF MODERN CAPITALISM.
ACCEPT YOUR DESTINY.
AMEN.
YOU!
YOU!!
BDDRRRAAP
ME.
BRRAAPP
Y...Y... YOUR GUN...
...IT... ...YOU... ...YOU...
TIMMY?
GET AWAY!
YOU LOSE, LING. ALL ACCOUNTS EVENED, PAID IN FULL.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES *ME* A GOOD BUSINESSMAN.
TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS.
END

MARVEL® READERS PRESENT

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016

Attention correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

TERRY KAVANAGH
Editor

KELLY CORVESE
Assistant Editor

Dear Terry,

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #49 was better than usual. The Wolverine and Spider-Man storyline was really good. Erik Larsen is a great artist as well as a great writer. I really hope Mr. Larsen will write as well as draw more stories in the future. They're worth looking forward to.

The conclusion of the Devil-Slayer storyline was both excellent and intriguing because it left many possibilities open for the character. I feel that old DS has the potential to be a very popular character in the Marvel Universe, if the right people do the story. I thought that the writing was great, and Rod Ramos' artwork was superb, by the way, so you should keep him around for any project that might come up. The Daredevil story was also well-written by the newcomer (I assume), John Figueroa. The new villain in this story, Scope, is another character who could be very well developed in the future. Perhaps he can be a major villain for Daredevil, or even Spider-Man?

The Gladiator story was very good too because he is another character who is not in the spotlight often enough. I have a question about the strength level of the Gladiator, though—is he stronger than Thor? Could he have been a match for Spider-Man with the Captain Universe powers?

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS has developed into a fine book. I really enjoy your format because it gives you a chance to spotlight lesser known and underdeveloped characters like Shamrock and Arabian Knight. This is the best biweekly comic book I have ever read.

I do have one concern, though. Most of these stories have starred Wolverine and other mutants. I don't personally have anything against mutants, but I think it would be a better idea to use every character in the Marvel Universe, then start over again. That way, there would be a great amount of variety in your books. Oh well, just something to consider.

Joseph Lawhorn
531 Prince Charles Ave.
Odenton, MD 21113

Thanks for the suggestion, Joseph, we'll seriously consider it. As for your questions concerning Gladiator, we consulted our trusty OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE and have found that Gladiator, if he's confident about himself at the time, is in fact stronger than Thor (and if you want to see the two of them battling each other, check out FANTASTIC FOUR #337, Walt Simonson's first new issue—which, by the way, is a great looking book now!). We're not too sure about Gladiator versus the Captain Universe-power enhanced Spider-Man though. Suffice it to say that it would be a really good fight, okay?

Dear Terry,

BiWeekly status report #49—

Wolverine—Erik Larsen is a wonderboy these days. His art is advancing rapidly to stardom, but we can all see that, can't we? Let's talk instead about these newly found writing skills. They're not all that bad, you know? The plot was well-constructed, the characters were portrayed well, the new villains were promising (these guys need to join the "mutant liberation front" over in NEW MUTANTS). I'd say, fine job, Erik, m'man. Overall rating: 2 Claws! I do have one gripe, though—Erik, let's reduce Wolvie's mask a little bit. He looks like the "Flying Nun."

Devil-Slayer—The story was brilliant. As was Rod Ramos' art. Cut Rod loose on a series, guys, he deserves one. I hate to see Payne retire, but with that mysterious staff of his, he could redeem himself with a new identity. Y'know, I always wanted Devil Slayer to join the Avengers.

3 Claws (Complete storyline).

Daredevil—Ron Wilson's art is kinda cardboard cut-out, but I love it. He does a great DD. It reminded me of Murdock's early days. A nicely scripted tale, Mr. Figueroa.

2 Claws.

I have a vision. Hey Ron, how about resurrecting Ulysses Bloodstone? Your art could reestablish the immortal gunslinger. Think about it.

Gladiator—Look up in the cosmos! It's great to see Sup-er oh man, sorry guys, I mean Gladiator, fly on his own again. The tale was well-written, but average at best. I would like to see Kaminski do further tales of the Imperial Guard. Don Heck has never been a favorite of mine, but this time the art was excellent. My compliments, Don!

1 ½ Claws!

Len Biehl
1237 Pinoak
Rantoul, IL 61866

Thanks for writing, Len, and thanks for being so kind to all of our creative people. But most of all, we'd like to thank both you and Joseph for not requesting any No-Prizes in your letters. We should probably send you a Yes-Prize or something, because you're definitely in the minority these days when it comes to people who write letters to this page. It seems people are constantly asking for No-Prizes these days, and issue #49 didn't really help matters any. Read on . . .

Dear MCP crew,

I am a new reader of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. The first issue I read, #49, was absolutely dazzling. I really like the unique split-book format. And best of all, this wondrous mag hits the stands twice a month! My favorite story was Erik Larsen's "Life Ends Part II: Child's Play." The art was great (Larsen and Rubinstein make a fine duo) and so was the script. I had no idea Erik Larsen was such a talented writer. I loved his handling of Wolverine, but was somewhat skeptical of his Spidey. It seemed that Mr. Larsen tried to make him too funny, especially on pages four and five. By the way, Erik, great cover. However, I think I deserve a No-Prize. On page 2, panel 3, Spider-Man says "We've got to move now!" Wolvie replies, 'Is that so? Why's that?' Then in panel 3 the floor collapses. Spidey says "Just a hunch. Wolvie replies, 'Gotcha. Good instincts. That's handy.' What bothers me is that Wolverine seems as if he had no idea of Mr. Parker's spider-sense. Never fear, for I have come up with two likely explanations for this, since I know they have met before.

1. Wolverine was so engrossed in the present situation that he forgot about the spider sense. Or,

2. Wolvie is pretending that he really is not Wolvie, because the world believes the X-Men are dead. He is pretending to be the mutant ghost clone look-alike Spidey though he was on page one.

Well, I hope I receive my first-ever No-Prize! See you soon.

Jeffrey Wilson
2935 W. 33 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11224

You see, everyone, this No-Prize thing has really become an epidemic. Jeffrey never even picked up an issue of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS until #49, and here he is immediately asking for a No-Prize. First he tries to butter us up with the compliments, then he hits us with the dreaded No-Prize request. Well, thanks for writing Jeffrey, and thanks for listing the suggestions (which were quite valid, we might add!), but you'll have to be around a little longer to be eligible for a coveted No-Prize. This letter is your first one to us, and we really want to see more. After a few more, who knows, the No-Prize may be yours! Sadly enough, there's no more room for the other 879 No-Prize requests we've received this month disguised as real letters. Maybe we'll run a MARVEL NO-PRIZE REQUEST BOOK sometime in the future for all you fans of the thing. For now, though, you'll just have to wait two weeks for your letters to the special 50th issue—sans any No-Prize requests (for a change). We guarantee it!

SUB-MARINER
IN FINAL CONFLICT WITH THE DWELLERS OF THE DEEP!
THE PUNISHER
UNDER SIEGE!
WEREWOLF
BY NIGHT...
TRANSFORMED FOREVER!